

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) configured for introduction into a penetration (14) in a component (39), wherein a hole (41) of said supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) is penetrated by a fixing pin (13, 43) configured to be insertable into a carrier (40) so as to fix the component (39) on a carrier (40), comprising:

a closed ring-shaped cross section; and

a plurality of axially and inwardly extending recesses (2, 3, 4, 5, 22, 23, 24, 25) extending over the entire length of the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34), each of the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5, 22, 23, 24, 25) being formed by inwardly bent walls (6, 7, 35, 36) and a base (8) having inwardly pointing projections (15, 16, 17, 18) at one end of the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) for captive holding of the fixing pin (13) and connecting those walls, the walls (6, 7, 35, 36) being generally radially oriented and configured such that ~~when~~ radial pressure is applied to the supporting sleeve (1, 21, 34) and ~~upon introduction into the penetration (14),~~

each recess moves closer to each other upon introduction into the penetration
(14).

12. (Previously presented) The supporting sleeve of claim 11, wherein the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) are uniformly distributed over the ring-shaped cross section.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) The supporting sleeve of claim ~~13~~11, the projections (15, 16, 17, 18) being configured to form a constriction of the hole (41) of the supporting sleeve of the fixing pin (13), wherein the fixing pin (13) has a diameter greater than a diameter of the hole (41).

15. (Previously presented) The supporting sleeve of claim 14, wherein the constriction is configured to support a washer (45) guided by the fixing pin (43).

16. (Previously presented) The supporting sleeve of claim 15, further comprising three overlapping circular areas that determine an opening (48) of the washer (45), wherein a center point of each of said circular areas lies on a circular arc (55), wherein the circular arc has center points that coincide with the axis of the supporting sleeve and wherein the three center points of the circular areas are uniformly distributed on the circular arc (55).

17. (Previously presented) The supporting sleeve of claim 11, wherein the fixing pin is a screw.

18. (Previously presented) The supporting sleeve of claim 11, the recesses (2, 3, 4, 5; 22, 23, 24, 25) being sized in relation to the fixing pin such that the fixing pin cuts an internal thread when screwed into the supporting sleeve (1).

19. (Previously presented) The supporting sleeve of claim 11, wherein the supporting sleeve further comprises bulges between the recesses, the bulges providing the external contact surfaces for engaging the penetration when the supporting sleeve is introduced into the penetration.

20. (Previously presented) The supporting sleeve of claim 11, wherein each base (8) is configured to bend inwardly in response to application of radial pressure upon introduction into the penetration (14).

21. (Cancelled)